

Duxbury Clipper, Wednesday, August 28, 1996

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Dredging On Track After Sand Problem

By SUSANNA SHOHAM

Why did the dredging equipment move from buoy #12 closer to the harbor last week? That's the question many residents have been asking each other as they've watched the progress of the channel dredging project, which began 2 weeks ago.

Put aside all the rumors you might have heard because the real reason, according to Harbormaster Don Beers is "coarse sand."

The dredging equipment was supposed to begin at channel buoy #12 and dig its way into the anchorage, however, that part of the channel was filled with coarse sand that, when mixed with water, slipped right through the 2 huge scows intended to hold the dredge materials, said Beers. (The scows are the long vessels pulled in and out of the bay by the tug boat.) When the contractor Weeks Marine of New Jersey discovered this problem it decided to move the dredging operation to buoy #20 where its been hauling out mud from the channel ever since.

Fortunately, this snafu in the dredging is only temporary since the contractor is expecting two scows "retro-fitted" to hold the sand to arrive this week, said Beers. However, the unexpected schedule change had him on the hot-seat to make sure moorings were cleared from the approaching dredger. When asked if he was troubled by the sudden change, Beers said: "I was frustrated by that more than anything because it pushed up my schedule to clear the anchorage by 6 days." He and his department managed to move the 160 boats in the anchorage in 4 days.

"It was a challenge I could overcome. We didn't want to stop the project," he said. "We're in really good shape."

Beers estimates that up to 90% of boater's moorings have been moved to other locations out of the reach of the dredging project, which, in addition to the channel and main anchorage, will include areas at the town pier, Duxbury Yacht Club, Bayside Marine and Batelle Laboratories. He is pleased with the relocations because it means that all boaters need not pull their vessels and can still enjoy the rest of the summer.

The entire \$1.87 million project is expected to be finished by Nov. 1, said Beers.

Green Lights Mean Go at the Dredging Barge

The old navigating ditty of "When you see red and green...go between..." has been changed with the presence of the dredging equipment in the middle of the channel, especially at low tide.

According to Harbormaster Don Beers when boaters approach the dredging equipment in the channel at low tide, they should look for the red and green lights on the bow and stern of the barge and then pass on the side showing green.

"The green side is dredged and is deep and you can pass," Beers said.

Fall Babe Ruth Baseball

The Babe Ruth fall baseball season is set to begin and Duxbury coach Mark Trask is looking for players. The team will play double-headers every Sunday during the months of September and October as a member of the Cape Cod Senior Babe Ruth League.

Experienced players of high school age interested in a varsity level fall baseball season are asked to call Coach Trask at 837-8146 before Sept. 6. Players may not be involved in a fall interscholastic sport at the high school level and may not turn 19 before Aug. 1, 1997.

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Shorebirds



The photo above by Scott Hecker of Duxbury appears in the new issue (September) of *National Geographic*, with a blurb on the plight of Piping Plovers in recent years in Massachusetts. Scott's and others' efforts to preserve Piping Plovers on Duxbury Beach and in the state have paid off, but it's an ongoing effort.



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